

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A device for connecting two tool parts configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle having a central axis and at least one projecting shoulder the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts to approximate said interior diameter such that said at least one projecting shoulder serves to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts, said at least one projecting shoulder having a centered coaxially centered and axially inwardly extending opening configured to receive ~~a~~ an axially positioned tool for effecting rotation of said threaded spindle when said at least one projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.

7.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the threaded spindle has a first end and a second end and further comprises a projecting shoulder at each said end.

8.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the outside diameter of the projecting shoulder at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of the associated threaded area of a corresponding tool part to approximate the interior threads thereof to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts.

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